The Lions' Pride

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Saint Leo's Top 10 Events of 2017

By The Lions' Pride Staff

2017 was a major year, not just for the world, but for the Saint Leo campus as well. There's no better way to kick off 2018 than with a fond look back at all the University accomplished and celebrated in the previous year.

10. Cross Country Team Goes to Nationals

Photo from the Lions' Pride Newspaper

The Lions' men's and women's cross-country teams traveled to Evansville, Indiana, to compete in the 2017 NCAA Division II Cross-Country National Championships. It was a big event for the teams as they got to compete against some of the best schools in the country. Saint Leo Cross-Country will look to build on their achievement next season when competition starts again.

9. Saint Leo Adds Beach Volleyball Team

Photo from @KeeleUniversity

Starting this spring, Saint Leo will be introducing their beach volleyball program. The announcement of the Lions' 20th intercollegiate sport came back in May. Saint Leo will join Eckerd College, University of Tampa, and Florida Southern College as the only schools in the Sunshine State Conference to compete in 2018. The team will be playing at a brand-new beach volleyball complex built on a portion of the recreational field on campus.

8. Veterans Day Celebration Featured State Rep. Gus Bilirakis

Photo byWakens Leonard

On Nov. 10 Saint Leo University observed Veterans Day with a ceremony honoring those that have served and are currently serving The United States with pride and dignity. In attendance at the event was congressman Gus Bilirakis of the U.S. House of Representatives for Florida's 12th Congressional District. Congressman Bilirakis gave stirring words to the eager crowd and stressed the importance of making sure the adults and by extension, the children under their remit understand that the true heroes are not the politicians, actors, and athletes, but the men and women on the front line.

7. Saint Leo Opens Ocala Center

Photo by John Hall

On March 1 Saint Leo University opened its newest center to facilitate Ocala City residents. The facility has 10 state of the art classrooms, outfitted with the latest technology that parallels that of University Campus. The center continues to work alongside the Ocala/Marion Chamber and Economic Partnership, along with local businesses in an effort to bolster the local workforce. The Mayor of Ocala, Kent Guinn, was in attendance and relayed his excitement to an enthusiastic crowd for the incredible partnership created between Saint Leo, the local business community, and its veteran reach. University President Dr. William Lennox assured the attendees that it was his duty to continue to reiterate the Core Values of Saint Leo, etched by the Benedictine Monks. The decor and aesthetic of the center sought to continue to bridge the divide between the University Campus and Center students. The opening of the Center solidified the Core Value of Community as the Saint Leo family continued to expand.

6. New Clubs on Campus: Prism and the Saint Leo Republicans

Photo from @dna

In the fall 2017 semester, Saint Leo added two brand-new clubs to its official roster of Student Government Union-recognized clubs and organizations. The first is Prism, Saint Leo's first ever official gay-straight alliance (GSA). Their president is sophomore Olivia Callahan. Prism is recognized by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and the national GSA Network. The second is Saint Leo Republicans, the University's first partisan political club established in recent history. Their chairman is freshman Johnmichael Fernandez. The Saint Leo Republicans are a federated chapter recognized by the Florida Federation of College Republicans (FFCR) and the College Republican National Committee (CRNC).

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Editorial

"The Greatest Showman" Inspires Hope in Americans After a Turbulent 2017

By Madison Whatley
Arts & Entertainment Editor

In 2017, the United States suffered as a nation divided under the new administration of President Donald Trump. Many people blame the country's acceptance of Trump's documented mockery and degradation of the marginalized for the rise in hateful and violent speech and actions that have come to light in the past year. This acceptance has left people of color, disabled people, and the LGBTQ community and other minority groups not only disappointed but also fearful that protection of their rights may be dwindling in the country's current political climate.

Directed by Micheal Gracey, "The Greatest Showman" was released in late December aimed to heal the wounds of 2017 by reminding its audience of an earlier time in America's history when individuals were shunned for their differences. It also showed Americans that they had overcome hatred and ignorance in a 'celebration of humanity' in the past.

Based on the true story of Barnum & Bailey Circus, the film showed P.T. Barnum (Hugh Jackman) search for unique individuals. In many cases, those individuals had spent their lives in hiding to avoid the ridicule that they faced in public, but Barnum brought them onstage and told them that "they [the audience] don't know it yet, but they're gonna love you." The stars were then able to develop self-confidence through performance. Among those that Barnum gave a platform for self-expression was a bearded lady, a little person, and a duo of African-American trapeze artists.

Letti Lutz (Keala Settle), known in the film as the bearded lady, represents a woman whose body produces more than the typical amount of testosterone present in women. She differed from the traditional constraints of the gender binary that people were used to, so she faced anger from those that did not understand her. People would wait outside of the circus to harass and assault her. In the film's period of the 1870s, science had not yet uncovered the fact that gender is flexible and can vary based on a number of factors such as differences in behavior for XX and XY cells, high or low sex hormone levels, and anatomical differences.

By 2017, the science of gender has evolved, but much of the public has still not yet come around to the idea. Because of this sad fact, 2017 was the deadliest year ever on record for transgender people. As of late October 2017, the Human Rights Campaign documented 28 [transgender] homicides, with 84 percent of those transgender victims being people of color.

In the film, the bearded lady performs a number entitled "This Is Me" in which she triumphantly sings, "I'm not scared to be seen/ I make no apologies, this is me." While her bravery is inspiring, it shouldn't be necessary. The hope is that 2018 will see fewer hate crimes committed against those with untraditional gender identities.

Fear of diversity in America is especially obvious when one looks at the conversation surrounding immigration. The president's most famous campaign promising to build a wall between the United States and Mexico gained favor for him with many people even though the construction of the wall is not realistic or feasible.

People support propositions such as these primarily for one reason: fear. President Trump fuels that fear by flagrantly stating his belief that Mexicans are stealing American jobs and bringing crime into America despite the fact that there is no real basis for those claims.

The same can be said for the treatment of Islamic individuals in America. Many Americans have developed a fear of Muslims based on the presence of Islamic terrorist groups that do not represent the majority of the members of the faith. As a result, President Trump has put in place what has been dubbed a 'Muslim ban,' which halted the acceptance of refugees, travelers, and immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries. Fear of outsiders has historically proven to create a paranoia that leads to more hate crimes, and it is unfair as well as ultimately unhealthy for America as a whole.

The message of "The Greatest Showman" is that the best way to combat fear and ignorance is through exposure and education. At the circus, people eventually saw the beauty in people that they used to fear because they watched them express themselves through happily showcasing their talents. The circus became a 'celebration of humanity' because diversity united people rather than divided them. In 2018, Americans need to take a lesson from P.T. Barnum and make an effort to better understand unique individuals.

Newsroom

33701 State Road 52 Saint Leo, FL 33574
Student Activities Building, Office
(352) 588-8316

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Photo credit: Twitter, @GreatestShowman

"The Greatest Showman's" song "This Is Me" was awarded the Golden Globe for Best Original Song.

Campus News

Saint Leo's Top 10 Events Cont'd.

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5. DACA's Effect on Saint Leo Students

Photo from @educationweek

The repeal of DACA impacted many souls across the nation, but also made a major impact on the Saint Leo campus. On Sept. 6, University President William Lennox expressed his sentiments on the matter in an email to the student body. "As a Catholic university, Saint Leo University is disheartened by the move to terminate DACA," the letter stated. "We are in accord with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops." The letter prompted Saint Leo staff to stand by their students affected by DACA and ensure their continuing education at the University.

4. Saint Leo's First Town Hall Meeting

Photo from the Lions' Pride Staff

The first Town Hall Meeting was a special event that was held during the 2017 spring semester in the SCC Boardrooms where Dr. Lennox made a presentation about plans for the school. The event was also an opportunity for students to pose questions to Dr. Lennox, who was able to address some concerns with a bit of help from some faculty members. However, tensions were high as some students had some startling complaints. Despite its rocky start, Dr. Lennox said that he'd gladly host the event again.

3. Homecoming

Photo from the Lions' Pride Staff

Saint Leo reinstated its Homecoming tradition with an unforgettable bash Nov. 4. The celebration ended a weeklong series of Homecoming events and reunited current students and alumni. The festivities included food trucks, rides, games, fireworks, and the crowning of the Homecoming court. The most notable part of the day, however, was the musical entertainment that took the campus by surprise the day their attendance was announced: iconic 90s band Smash Mouth.

2. Health Center Under New Management

Photo by Wakens Leonard

The changes made to Saint Leo's student health care served as one of the hot-button issues on University campus in 2017. In May, Saint Leo's former Health and Wellness Center began operating under the new management of Florida Hospital, with its staff replacing the former Wellness Center's nurses staff. Bits of information about the change were prematurely disclosed, causing all sorts of rumors to fly and ultimately the University having to release the official announcement earlier than planned. Many students were very conflicted about the transition, primarily because they were concerned about losing a staff of nurses that some had known for years and built relationships with. The University ensured that Florida Hospital's team can offer more advanced care than the old Wellness Center staff was capable of.

1. The Hurricanes

Photo by Kadyann Stupart

Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma had quite an effect on the Saint Leo community last year. First, Hurricane Harvey hit the Corpus Christi Center and many students and staff suffered property damage. Then, Hurricane Irma also impacted the Saint Leo community, causing the Centers and the main campus to close for a couple of days. The University Campus was a haven for many students who lived on campus, as well as some faculty, as some of the buildings were used as shelters. One of the Centers that took the big hit was the Key West Center; it was closed for weeks, and some students were not able to finish the semester due to effects of the storm.

National

Top 10 National Events of 2017

10. Oscar Mix-Up

The Academy Awards have seen its share of mistakes in the past (we all remember John Travolta heinously butchering Idina Menzel's name), but the gaffe that will live in infamy was made Feb. 26, 2017. After being handed the wrong envelope, actor Warren Beatty mistakenly announced "La La Land" as the recipient of the Best Picture award when the Oscar was actually meant for the drama "Moonlight." The mishap sparked both angry and humorous backlash from the entertainment industry and even a few conspiracy theories.

9. Royal Engagement

Photo from @HISTORYUK

In late November 2016, the world was in awe as Prince Harry and actress Meghan Markle announced to the world their engagement. The world paused as it processed the anomaly that is Meghan Markle, acknowledging primarily her status as a woman of color. Additionally, headlines teemed as she was born and raised Catholic and the Queen is head of the Protestant church. Ms. Markle is a 36-year-old divorcee, as well. The couple's relationship has broken many norms within the royal family and will be the center of attention leading up to their wedding day.

8. Famous Deaths

Photo from @RollingStone

The entertainment world lost a great deal of star power in the past year. Cinematic stars included 70s icon David Cassidy, Harry Dean Stanton, John Hurt, comedian Jerry Lewis, Mary Tyler Moore and Batman himself, Adam West to name a few. Musical entertainers included Della Reese, Tom Petty, Fats Domino, Glen Campbell, Chris Cornell of Soundgarden, and Linkin Park frontman Chester Bennington. And let's not forget Playboy icon Hugh Hefner.

7. Solar Eclispse

Photo from @Yale

The total solar eclipse, which traversed across the continental United States Aug. 21, was a major event in 2017, especially for the United States. Many people, including President Donald Trump, took time out of their day to go outside to view the solar eclipse and to engage on social media regarding the event. The eclipse was significant as well because it was the first in nearly a century of this type of eclipse to travel across from one coast of the United States to another, according to National Geographic.

6. Transgender Rights Progress

Photo from @ SaeedBaygi

2017 was both a positive and negative year for the transgendered community. Victories for this community include eight transgender candidates being elected to office this November. These candidates include transgender women such as Danica Roem and Andrea Jenkins. Roem becoming the first openly trans women to win state office in America and Jenkins becoming the first transgender woman to hold public office. Despite these accomplishments, 2017 was also the deadliest year for transgender Americans. More transgender men and women were killed this year than any other year in the past decade. At least 28 transgender deaths were recorded in 2017.

5. Protests

Photo from @MPRNews

National

2017 was a very large year for protests, both violent and nonviolent. The year started off with the massive worldwide women's march following Donald Trump's inauguration. This protest for women's rights was one of the largest in the country's history, with the Washington, D.C. march being the largest in the city since the Vietnam War. Attendance in the United States is estimated to be up to 5 million people, with even more in the whole world. Also, of note in 2017 was the #TakeaKnee movement, with athletes in the NFL and other sports kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality and Donald Trump's hateful rhetoric. On the violent side of protests, the far-right "Unite The Right" white nationalist rally in Charlottesville to protest the removal of a Confederate statue dominated the news cycle for months, with a domestic terrorist ramming his car through a group of counter-protesters leading to the death of Heather Heyer. Protests did not begin in 2017, nor will they cease to exist leading into 2018, but 2017 was the year of marginalized American citizens making themselves known.

4. Las Vegas Shooting

Photo from @yahoophoto

On the night of Oct. 1, 2017, Stephen Paddock opened fire on a music festival in Las Vegas, killing 59 people, plus himself. This shocked millions of people around the world, but especially in the nation where it is now known as the country's deadliest mass shooting. This event has invigorated the debate on gun control, especially on the legality of the "bump fire stock," a debate that is still happening well into 2018. Even now, it is a mystery why Paddock decided to carry out this tragedy. No terrorist links have been found, and no manifesto has been published, leading many to believe it was simply an act of senseless violence.

3. Sexual Abuse

Photo from @TheIndyFilm

2017 was a huge year for sexual abuse survivors. With accusations against Harvey Weinstein, Louis C.K, Kevin Spacey and several more famous men, a movement was sparked. Some of these people faced consequences in their personal lives while others did not. All of them, however, faced damage to their reputation. To raise awareness, the popular hashtag #MeToo was created, allowing those who had experienced sexual abuse or harassment to speak out about it and raise awareness to the fact that knowing someone who's been a victim is more likely than not.

2. Natural Disasters

Photo from @13NewsNow

The Northern Hemisphere was plagued with numerous natural disasters and in a short period. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria caused immense damage to the Caribbean and United States, leaving property damages and deaths in their paths. These hurricanes happened right after the other, and the latter two shined light onto Puerto Rico's massive debt crisis, which is another reason these hurricanes were significant in 2017. These hurricanes were followed by the wildfires in California, which also resulted in major property damage and deaths. There were also numerous earthquakes during the year, including the earthquake in Mexico, which happened around the same time as the aforementioned natural disasters, which made 2017 stand out for years of natural disasters. In fact, according to The Washington Post, 2017 was the most expensive year for natural disasters in United States' history.

1. Trump's First Year

Photo from @thehill

Like 2016, a great majority of 2017 was dominated by the year's newly inaugurated President Donald J. Trump. From what many call his "tweet storms" (that often only seem to dig his political grave further and further), his continued touting of his coined phrase "Fake News" (that continually undermines the American press and their First Amendment rights), being under a very long and intricate FBI investigation led by appointed Special Counsel Robert Mueller (that has only caused him even further and more extreme scrutiny from the media), to his ongoing feud with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un (that resembles a childlike mudslinging contest between two world leaders that only humiliates and endangers each of their countries), Americans and the rest of the globe have seen just about everything throughout this very long year of political change.

Arts & Entertainment

What Did "Bright" Get Right?

By John Hall
Layout Editor

"Bright" is a present-day fantasy/action/crime/drama starring Will Smith ("Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and "Men in Black") as Daryl Ward, a veteran human police officer, and Joel Edgerton ("Exodus Gods and Kings" and "The Great Gatsby") as Nick Jakoby, an orc and a newly enlisted police officer.

The Netflix premiered flick began streaming Dec. 13, 2017, and was quickly berated by film critics as it achieved a rating of 30 percent on movie aggregates Rotten Tomatoes, however, what was stifling was the audiences' response which weighed in at 90 percent as of Dec. 16, 2017. The disparity between the two prompts viewers to look back at the movie to see what "Bright" got right.

"Bright's" plot was explained as a buddy cop movie that paralleled many others like "Training Day" and the "Lethal Weapon" franchise. However, this detracts from the uniqueness of "Bright's" premise as the two never really warm up to each other to be considered buddies. The plot is best described as a present-day fantasy action film, which paints over the many faces and social ills that exist in society under the guises of imaginary creatures. In doing so, the movie appeals to a wider audience of science fiction lovers, while tackling social ills on a large scale.

The film tackles racism, prejudice and greed while juxtaposing tensions with police and public perception of the office. The stealth-like manner the Director, David Ayer ("Suicide Squad") approaches these topics is understandable as the public is quite verbal in recent times about the way social ills are portrayed on screen.

The plot is advanced by an elf named Tikka portrayed by Lucy Fry ("H20: Just Add Water"), who is in possession of a magic wand that can only be held and used by a 'Bright,' an individual of an obscure rarity. Throughout the remainder of the film the trio attempt to keep the wand away from Leila, Noomi Rapace ("What Happened to Monday"). Leila, also an elf and relative to Tikka wants to use the power of the wand to usher the return of the (Dark Lord) an individual whom is seen as pure evil.

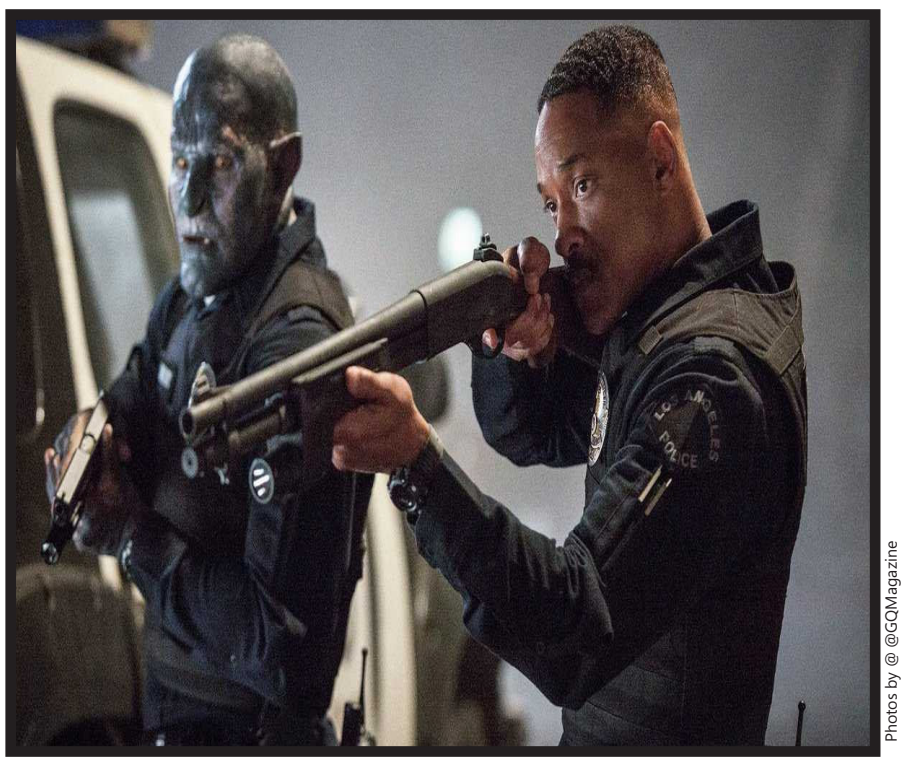
The strength throughout the film are the characters that move the storyline on with great skills and energy. The falter, however, lies within the storyline never expressly saying the origin of the other races, who the dark one is and what transpired before the events of the film. However, critics and audiences alike have complained over the years of origin films, and franchising hopes to be too much to handle. Further, the discussion of spoon feeding audiences information over the years, as opposed to 'leaving it to the imagination' or 'tying up loose ends' in subsequent sequels has prompted directors to take large leaps of faith as was taken in "Bright."

Despite the backlash, the characters while on screen do not saunter; their dialog is witty, direct and fluent. They grow independent of each other while growing symbiotically in relationships that are built of necessity. One of the harshest critiques of the movie relates to the underdeveloped relationship between Will Smith and Joel Edgerton, which never becomes normal. This critique counters the description of the movie made by critics, as the tension between the two continue to the very end, suggesting that it could not be a "buddy cop" movie.

Throughout the film, the audience is treated to several nods of past movies under director Ayers remit, one of which was "Training Day." The scene involves the two protagonists at gunpoint by a gang leader; the duo is not executed as one of them had previously saved the executioners life. Ayer's allusion to his previous work proves to be effective, as we can compare good references when describing the movie in future detail.

Despite having experienced an insufferable amount of backlash from critics, "Bright" created a world similar to our own in which real-life issues could be addressed in a more politically correct way. This included the amalgamation of household science fiction characters (Orcs and Elves) while allowing humans to galvanize irrespective of race against a common enemy. This concept parallels the anti-Muslim Semitism currently on display within the American society. "Bright" was not perfect in its attempts, however, the announcement of a sequel will be sure to clear up any ambiguities left in the prequels wake.

Movie Score:
4 out of 5 Paws



Photos by @ @GQMagazine

Will Smith and Joel Edgerton's performances were compared to many other "buddy cop" movies, however, the two never become buddies.

BRIGHT (2017)
TOMATOMETER
AUDIENCE SCORE
27%
89%
Critic Consensus: Bright tries to blend fantasy, hard-hitting cop drama, and social commentary -- and ends up falling painfully short of the mark on all three fronts.
WILL SMITH JOEL EDGERTON
BRIGHT
NETFLIX | DEC 22

Photo by rottentomatoes.

Critics weighed in heavily on the film blasting it for its performances, yet the audience begged to differ.

Upcoming Events

2018 Gasparilla Pirate Fest & Parade of the Pirates

Date: January 27, 2018

Time: 9:00 AM- 9:00 PM

Price: FREE

Description: The 2018 Seminole Hard Rock Gasparilla Pirate Fest will feature the 101st Gasparilla Invasion and Parade of the Pirates presented by Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla.

Location: Downtown Tampa

Bayshore Blvd, Tampa, FL 33606

Contact: (813) 251-8844

Or Visit

gasparillapiratefest.com for more details.

SEMINOLE HARD ROCK GASPARILLA PIRATE FEST

Arts & Entertainment

The Greatest Show on Earth

By Emily Kochanski
Campus News Editor

There's a good reason why Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey circus was known as "the greatest show on earth," and it's well reflected in director Michael Gracey's musical film, "The Greatest Showman." The exhilarating biopic stars Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams and Zendaya. "The Greatest Showman" tells the story of visionary P. T. Barnum, his rise to stardom, and the birth of show business.

After living an impoverished childhood, Barnum (Jackman) is determined to make a name for himself and his family by creating something the world has never seen, something utterly spectacular. By assembling a troupe of unique individuals and extraordinary oddities and partnering with a show savvy aristocrat (Efron), Barnum creates a world of wonder and amazement in the form of a grand circus. But in a time where economic pressures are mounting, and the unique are often seen as outcasts, Barnum must overcome both social adversity and his expanding ego if his show is to be a success.

In true Barnum fashion, "The Greatest Showman" is an awe-inspiring, spectacular delight for all ages. The film is visually and musically stunning. With the intense first chords of the opening number, this movie pulls the audience in and doesn't surrender them until the very end.

Jackman delivers a powerful and moving performance as Barnum, but his troupe of bizarrely beautiful performers steals this show. Keala Settle, who portrays the bearded lady, delivers a powerhouse musical performance that moviegoers won't soon forget. Zendaya shines as trapeze artist Anne Wheeler; her acrobatics both stun and enchant and help to give the film a bit of magical flair.

The cinematography is bright, whimsical and flawless, but what makes this film shine is its incredible score. The lyricists behind the musical hit "La La Land" have made musical magic yet again with a collection of unrelentingly catchy, upbeat, and motivational numbers that will have patrons dancing in their seats. Each song produces a case of excitement fueled goosebumps, especially the empowering ballad "This is Me," which took home a Golden Globe for the best original song.

"The Greatest Showman" recounts the events of Barnum's life with stunning and emotional accuracy while also delivering an impactful message about self-acceptance. It's the kind of cinematic spectacle of which P.T. Barnum would have been proud. Don't miss a chance to take in this spellbinding show before it leaves the theaters.

Movie Score:
5 out of 5 Paws

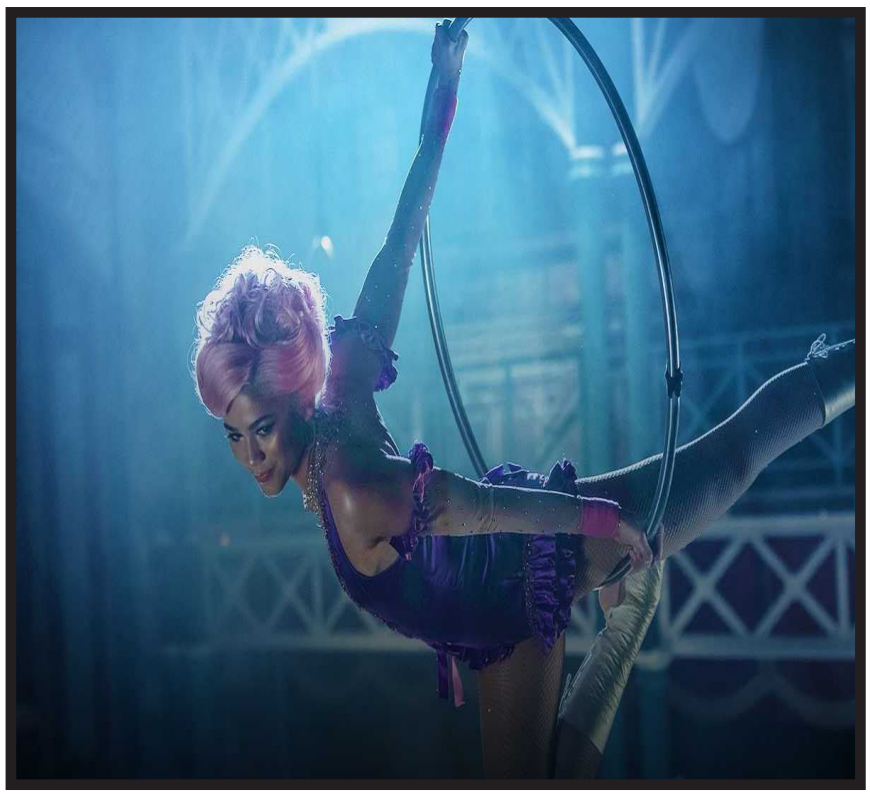


Photo by @GreatestShowman

Determined to do her own stunts, actress Zendaya mastered the trapeze and other acrobatic skills for her role as Anne Wheeler.

Photo by @GreatestShowman

The bearded lady, played by Keala Settle, knows what it's like to be shunned for her oddity, but quickly finds a new home and love within Barnum's circus.

Photo by @GreatestShowman

Hugh Jackman skillfully embodies the flair, showmanship, and sense of wonder for which the real P.T. Barnum was known and loved.

Photo by @GreatestShowman

Barnum's dreams begin with his determination to give Charity (Michelle Williams), his childhood sweetheart turned wife, a life of magic and happiness.

Sports

Top 10 Sports Moments of 2017

By Collin Moran & Vincent Pensabene
Sports Editors

10. Kyrie Leaves for Boston

Kyrie Irving was a staple of the Cleveland Cavaliers ever since being drafted first overall in 2011. Irving saw his share of highs and lows as the only star in Cleveland, but once Lebron James returned, the attention shifted away from the talented point guard. After a few seasons of playing second fiddle on the team, Irving requested a trade in the offseason and was sent to the Boston Celtics.

9. The Face of NASCAR Retires

After being one of the most recognizable drivers in the NASCAR Cup Series, Dale Earnhardt Jr. retired after 18 years of racing. The veteran had 26 Cup Series wins in his career, and had won the most popular driver award 14 times. While Earnhardt says he plans to still do two more Xfinity Series races in 2018, this was pretty much his last race being a full-time driver.

8. Big Baller Begins

The emergence of Lavar Ball is the example of a sports-helicopter parent. He began making national headlines when he claimed he could win a basketball game against Michael Jordan. From there, the media was ready to follow him around and get their quotes. He later appeared on "The Herd" where he challenged co-host Kristine Leahy while promoting his Big Baller Brand, the brand his sons will be the forefront of. Since then, he has pulled his two younger sons from UCLA and Chino Hills High and sent them to Lithuania to play professional basketball. Here's to hoping Lavar learns to stay in his lane.

7. Westbrook's Historic Season

Russell Westbrook had a historic 2017 season, proving he was dominant without former teammate Kevin Durant. In 2017, Westbrook averaged 31.6 points, 10.4 rebounds, and 10.7 assists, which was the second time in NBA history a player averaged a triple-double in a season. For his efforts, he became the NBA MVP and showed he was a player on a mission.

6. Tigers Win National Title in Dramatic Fashion

The Clemson Tigers defeated the Alabama Crimson Tide to become National Champions in what was one of the greatest finishes in college football history. In a rematch from the previous season's national championship game, the Tigers made a comeback in the fourth quarter, similar to Alabama's in the 2016 National Championship game. Deshaun Watson threw a touchdown pass with one second left on the clock, which sealed his case for game MVP. Clemson outscored Alabama 21-7 in the fourth quarter putting them in prime position for a big play at the end of the game.

5. Golden Knights Honor Victims at First Home Game

The mass shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival Oct. 1, 2017, was the deadliest in United States History. The Vegas Golden Knights, the NHL's newest team, wanted to honor the victims and help the city recover with a ceremony before the team's first ever regular season home game. Before the contest, the team brought out dozens of first responders and hospital workers who worked tirelessly in the aftermath of the shooting. T-Mobile Arena then took a 58-second moment of silence to honor the 58 victims of the tragedy. The Golden Knights went on to score four first-period goals in what was an emotional night for those in attendance, and those watching at home.

4. UConn's Streak Ends

The University of Connecticut Women's Basketball team lost for the first time since 2014 when they were defeated by Mississippi State in the National Semifinal game. The Bulldogs put an end to the incredible winning streak in overtime after a buzzer beater from Morgan Williams. Unfortunately, Mississippi State was defeated in the National Championship game by South Carolina. They didn't win it all, but what the Bulldogs did was truly special by defeating one of the best teams in history.

3. Mcgregor vs Mayweather

The fight that people never thought would happen and just took as "Twitter fingers." Conor McGregor had been one of the most popular fighters in the UFC and speculation came to a possible fight with Floyd "Money" Mayweather, an undefeated boxer that is known by some as the greatest of all time. Mayweather And McGregor put on a spectacle before announcing the fight, during their press conferences, and Aug. 26 for the actual boxing match. Mayweather ultimately knocked out McGregor in 10 rounds, but with talks brewing about Mayweather and UFC, will we get a rematch in the octagon?

2. Patriots Make Miracle Comeback in Superbowl LI

The biggest game of the entire year would usually take the top spot of the list, however, Superbowl LI did not have a lot of drama for the first half. Seen by many as the end of the Brady-Belichick era at halftime, people assumed a comeback of this proportion couldn't happen; they were wrong. Atlanta led 28-3 with just over two minutes remaining in the third when New England decided to take control. The Patriots scored 25 unanswered points sending the game into overtime and eventually won the game with James White running into the endzone. The state of Georgia seems to have trouble holding on to leads in their biggest games.

1. Houston, We Have A Champion

The city of Houston, Texas was devastated by Hurricane Harvey in August, and just a few months later the Astros won baseball's biggest prize. The talented group of young players took on the Los Angeles Dodgers, one of the best teams in baseball, and defeated them in game seven of a very exciting series that will be considered one of the best of all time. World Series MVP George Springer helped power the Astros